

The Board of Selectmen held their Neighborhood Meeting, Precincts 5 & 7, on Monday, November 28, 2011, 7:00 p.m., at the Early Childhood Education Center, Sprague Street, Dedham, Massachusetts. Present were:

James A. MacDonald
Carmen DelloIacono
Michael L. Butler
Sarah E. MacDonald
Paul A. Reynolds

Mr. MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. MacDonald welcomed all and introduced Selectman Sarah MacDonald, a resident of Precinct #5, who conducted the Neighborhood Meeting.

William Keegan, Town Administrator, also welcomed and wished everyone Happy Holidays. Mr. Keegan introduced the Department Heads that were present to the audience. Present were: Police Chief Michael D'Entremont, Fire Chief William Cullinane, Joseph Flanagan, DPW Director, David Field, Director of Engineering, Karen O'Connell, Economic Development Director, Mariellen Murphy, Finance Director, William Ralph, Asst. Finance Director, Robin Reyes, Collector/Treasurer, Ken Cimen, Building Commissioner, Virginia LeClair, Environmental Coordinator, Tassir Alani, Facilities Manager, Paul Munchbach, Town Clerk

DISCUSSION

Cheryl Schoenfield, Chairman Precinct #7, asked to speak. Ms. Schoenfield asked the Selectmen the status of the double telephone poles in the Greenlodge neighborhood. Mr. Flanagan informed her that he has a list of the double poles. He went on to say that the utilities are starting to take off the wires. Going forward, he asked the neighbors to send him locations for follow-up.

Ms. Schoenfield informed Mr. Flanagan of a double pole in the middle of the sidewalk in front of 255 Greenlodge Street—she asked if the Town can do anything about this situation. Mr. Flanagan's response was that he would look at the area to see how the Town could address this situation. Mr. Keegan informed all that the telephone poles are owned by NSTAR or Verizon and that there are multiple utility wires on the poles. He went on to say that coordination relative to the removal of wires is a challenge and the Town is just as frustrated as the residents. Mr. Keegan informed the audience that he would like to see a system in place similar to Dig Safe.

Susan DiBenadetto, resident of Paul Street, asked if there is a schedule in place for the pickup of leaves at Paul Park. Parks & Recreation Commissioner, Jim Maher, who happened to be attending the meeting as a neighbor, informed Ms. DiBenadetto that their staff is presently assisting with the lighting of the Christmas Tree in Dedham Center and will be getting out to the parks within the next few weeks.

On another matter, Ms. DiBenadetto informed all that teenagers are gathering at Paul Park at least 4 nights a week between the hours of 5:00 & 6:00 p.m. She informed all that she believed the teenagers were doing drugs—she can smell odor. Chief D'Entremont responded that he will check out the area. He went on to say that the Dedham Police Department very recently caught five kids drinking at Paul Park.

Ms. DiBenadetto had a question relative to Board of Health matter. She informed all that a resident in her neighborhood has let their property go--it is disgraceful. Ms. DiBenadetto asked when she should call the Board of Health for their assistance. Additionally, are there certain triggers that need to be met before the Board of Health is contacted. (Cathy Cardinale, Board of Health Director was not present. Mr. Keegan will e-mail her with neighbors concern.)

Ken Cimeno asked Ms. DiBenadetto the condition of the resident's property. She responded that there are two dogs that howl and poop all over the property—when she opens her door she can smell the dog odor. Additionally, the grass on the property is up to her knees, leaves, boats and lawn mowers. Mr. Cimeno thought that some of her concerns might be Board of Health related and some related to Dog Officer. Mr. Keegan asked for the resident's address—he will forward to the Dog Officer for assistance.

Greenlodge Resident—Asked the Police Chief the status of break-ins on Greenlodge Street. Chief D'Entremont informed resident that the problems come and go. Additionally, Greenlodge was not hit as hard as Precinct #1. Chief informed all that some of the people involved in the break-ins have been caught—they recently caught a few more. Chief D'Entremont informed all that the problem is calming down. Chief D'Entremont went on to say that the problem is a result of people not locking their vehicles—he asked all to lock cars. Chief informed all that year to date, 16 vehicles have been broken into relative to the Manor/Greenlodge area; last year, there were 24 vehicles broken into.

Victoria, a resident of Hooper Road, informed Chief D'Entremont about cars speeding on Hooper Road—she walks a lot and sees the vehicles speeding. She asked Chief if there is anything that the neighbors can do going forward. Additionally, Victoria asked if a Stop Sign could be placed on Kensington Road—she was concerned that there might be an accident. Chief D'Entremont informed her that he will place the Speed Sign device in that location to access/provide data. He went on to say that this process helps the department target the times for enforcement. Chief D'Entremont informed the neighbors that there have been no significant Speeding Tickets in this area; however, he will check with his staff to see if the status has changed. Mr. Field, Engineering Department, added that he will look at the road and send a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

Charlie Black, Resident Precinct #7, had concerns relative to the Endicott Circle MBTA Bridge—he informed all that he has seen several close calls with pedestrians passing through. Specifically, he mentioned several children who got caught in heavy rain water passing under the bridge. Mr. Black asked if the Town could look at this situation. He informed all that there is a company located in San Diego, California, that can push a

tube threw the soil, creating a walkway. Mr. Black went on to say that he is very concerned with pedestrians walking under the bridge—he felt that there is not enough room for pedestrians and vehicles. Mr. Black asked if the Town’s Engineering Department could do some research, maybe put in a tunnel, once the Dedham Square Project is completed.

Mr. Keegan commented that he did not disagree with Mr. Black’s approach; however, the bridge is owned by the MBTA, not the Town of Dedham. Mr. Keegan went on to say that he can make a request to the State/MBTA; however, the Town cannot spend money on land it does not own. Mr. MacDonald suggested Tassir Alani, Facilities Manager, and former MBTA employee, assist in assembling a group comprised of representatives from the Town, MBTA and State to discuss placing a tunnel—Mr. MacDonald thought Mr. Alani might be able to assist with the process given his experience with the MBTA. Mr. Alani informed all that the MBTA also owns the air rights and under the bridge.

Peter Bensen, Resident Precinct #7, also asked the Town to explore the possibility of placing a tunnel for pedestrians. He thought the situation was very complex—mentioned widening the roadway, raising the bridge for trucks and grating of the railroad tracks. Mr. Black asked if the MBTA was still an active freight line. Mr. Keegan and Mr. Alani were not sure.

Jim Maher, Resident Sherman Road, Parks & Recreation Commissioner. Relative to recent questions, Pick up of leaves at Paul Park, Mr. Maher informed the audience that he has received a message from his staff that the leaves are on the schedule for pick up next week.

Relative to the Neighbor Watch Neighborhood Meetings, Mr. Maher thanked the Dedham Police Department. He informed all that Chief Michael D’Entremont and Detective Mahoney have attended all of their meetings.

On another matter, Mr. Maher commented that he was disappointed that no Town departments were jumping up and down to occupy the Avery School—most specifically, the Dedham Police Department and Council on Aging. Mr. Maher went on to say that he was afraid that the school will be empty and that it will be torn down—similar to the Dedham Middle School. Mr. Reynolds informed all that the Avery Re-Use Committee has met for a full year to discuss/recommend what is desirable to the residents and what is feasible. He went on to say that Joe Heisler, Avery Re-Use Chairman, has reached out to the committee. Mr. Reynolds reminded all that this is the time for interested parties to speak and invited all to participate.

Mr. Reynolds informed all that the Avery neighbors expressed concerns relative to placing a Fire Station or Police Station next to their homes. Mr. Reynolds informed all that the next Avery School Re-Use Meeting will be held on December 6, 2011—the committee will make a set of recommendations to present to the Board of Selectmen. Once this part of the process is complete, it will continue on for process with the Conservation Commission and Planning Board.

Mr. Maher referred to the Avery Re-Use Survey—he went on to say that his group overwhelmingly thought that the re-use should be a new Police Station given the fact that there is limited space at the present Police Station. Mr. Reynolds acknowledged that the Police Station is awful and needs to be fixed; however, he informed all that the right solution has to be reached for the Avery School re-use. He went on to say that if the Avery was suitable and a viable solution, the Police Chief would be on board.

Mr. Maher mentioned to Mr. Reynolds that he discovered that the Avery Re-Use Committee did not receive the survey. Mr. Reynolds informed him that the survey was solely his idea and not built into the process. The purpose of the inquiry was just to get people's ideas/input. He went on to say that the committee listens to public input and is diligent with meetings. Mr. Reynolds apologized that he did not get the survey. Ms. MacDonald added—the Avery Re-Use Committee was the first step. The Board of Selectmen will get the word out relative to options over the next few months. Mr. Reynolds commented that although the committee spent much time relative to discussion/research, there are still people who say they have had no communication. Going forward, Mr. Reynolds will try to find better ways to get the word out, i.e., Selectmen's Newsletter and Fresh Ideas.

Ron Brock, Resident Precinct #5, Lancaster Road—Mr. Brock informed all relative to the water problems in the Manor Section—water deter from Striar property and is pooling/standing in front of Kensington Road. Mr. Brock went on to say that this situation is becoming an issue and has not happened in the past. Mr. Brock suggested keeping the water basin in the area clean—water is diverted on to Kensington, Leominster and on Sprague Street. Mr. Flanagan informed all that the issue is on Lancaster Road—the basin is a dry hole and there is no where for the water to go. Additionally, other basins in the area flow to a pipe. Mr. Flanagan went on to say that in recent years there has been a lot of development in the area and there were homes built that should not have been built. Relative to the issue, he reminded neighbors that they should not throw leaves in the low-lying areas. Additionally, many of the areas are private property, not Town land. He suggested getting the neighbors together to clean the back of yards. Mr. Flanagan informed the neighbors that the Norfolk County Mosquito Control has cut back services in the area. Additionally, Lancaster and Leominster Road need a machine to clear. Mr. Flanagan went on to say that the County does not allow the Town to do this work any longer; however, he will ask the County to look into this area in the springtime. Once again, he suggested that the neighbors all get together and clean their back yards.

Mr. Brock asked if Dedham Town Officials could knock on the doors of neighbors to ask them to pick up leaves. Ms. MacDonald suggested that William Keegan, Town Administrator, send a letter to the neighbors informing them of the water issue. Mr. Maher informed all that dumping is illegal on Conservation Land in the area. Virginia LeClair, Environmental Coordinator, informed all that Conservation can send an enforcement letter if dumping occurs on Conservation Land. Mr. Keegan added that neighbors need to take care and asked for property identification—he will send letter. Additionally, if necessary, he will set up personal meetings.

Jim McCarthy, Leominster Road, expressed his concerns relative to the puddle caused by water and the fact that he cannot pass the street by foot when it pools up—he felt that the problem will get worse going forward. Mr. McCarthy also informed all of two homes on his street that are eye sores and dangerous. Mr. Flanagan commented that he will speak with Mr. McCarthy to figure something out relative to cleaning out and addressing the water issue.

Resident, Manor Section, asked the process relative to unregistered vehicles. Mr. Cimeno, Building Commissioner, informed resident that his office sends letters and issues citations. He went on to say that persons involved have three months to register the vehicle; if there is no response, a ticket violation is issued and/or taken to Court. Mr. Cimeno informed all that their office gets information relative to unregistered vehicles via complaints or if they see something obvious. Mr. Keegan asked the resident to give him the address of the vehicles and he will work with the Police Department and/or Code Officer to resolve matter.

Paul Munchbach, Town Clerk, gave the audience an overview of the re-districting. He informed the neighbors that both Precincts #5 & #7 will still vote at the Greenlodge School. Mr. Maher, Sherman Road, asked Mr. Munchbach if the Town/State tried to keep communities together. Mr. Munchbach-- responded, yes. Mr. Maher thought it did not make sense to draw lines, i.e., one side of street, Precinct #5 and the other side of street in Precinct #7. Mr. Munchbach informed him that he worked the Town's GIS Manager and that the lines are drawn by Census Block.

Mr. Maher, Sherman Road, commented to the Board that he thought it was time someone speak with George Wons, owner of property adjacent to Terri's Market, relative to the Jersey Barriers surrounding his property. Mr. Maher mentioned that in the past, former Selectmen Marie-Louise Kehoe, addressed the barriers with Mr. Won. Mr. Maher asked if the Town could address the barriers with George Won and discuss beautification of the area. Mr. Maher went on to say that, in the past, he suggested placing a fence around the property so that the Jersey Barriers can be removed. Mr. Maher informed the Board that the barriers have been there enough. Mr. MacDonald informed Mr. Maher and all that the Board has asked George to remove the barriers. He went on to say that the barriers are a disgrace and an eye sore. Mr. MacDonald suggested approaching Mr. Won and asking what the Town can do to make the property presentable.

At the conclusion of the Neighborhood Meeting, the Board of Selectmen thanked the neighbors for attending the meeting this evening.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

The above is a true and accurate record of the Minutes of the Selectmen's Neighborhood Meeting held on November 28, 2011, which Minutes were approved on December 15, 2011.

James A. MacDonald, Chairman

